

Village of Cuyahoga Heights

February 2022

Continuing to move our legacy community forward...

Upcoming Dates and Reminders

February 21 - Presidents' Day - Village Hall/Service Department Closed

February 22 - Rubbish Collection

February 23 - Special Pick Up Council Workshop Cancelled

March 2 - Charity Pick Up

March 13 - Daylight Saving Time Begins - "Spring Forward"

March 15 - Youth Baseball & Softball Registration Deadline

March 17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 31 - Easter Bunny Drive-Thru Registration Deadline

Agenda/Minutes of our council meetings are posted every month under the government tab



At the Village Hall

Council Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the Month Caucus 5:00 p.m. Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Economic Development Committee Public Works Meeting Finance Committee Meeting 2nd Wednesday of the Month,

if needed

Zoning Board Meetings

3rd Wednesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.

Work Sessions of Council

4th Wednesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m. *Only in January, February, March, April, May, October

Village Hall office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

From the Mayor's Desk

Hi, hope everyone is well and staying warm! We sure did get a lot of snow at the end of January. No surprise...cause we live in northeast Ohio \bigcirc . Our service department has done a fantastic job with keeping our streets clean, sidewalks cleared and helping out with residential driveways. Also, thank you to our fire and police departments for their help as well. We truly our blessed to live in such an incredible community as Cuyahoga Heights. On another note, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on February 2—that means six more weeks of snow!

Business Meetings

I just wanted to remind our residents once again that during the January council meeting, council members approved changing the time of various meetings. This information is posted in our monthly newsletter on the front page, our village marquees, and on our web site.

<u>Meeting</u> Caucus Council Workshop Zoning Board

New Starting Time

5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.

Easter Bunny Drive-Thru

We will be holding our Easter Bunny Drive-Thru at Bacci Park on Saturday, April 16 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The event is for our resident children and grandchildren between the ages of 0-12. Upon entering the park, your first stop will be at the concession stand where the children will receive an Easter goody bag from our elected officials and village hall staff. There will be additional stops with treats from our departments along the way before exiting the park. If you would like to participate in this event, you must sign up. Please contact the Village Hall during regular business hours at 216-641-7020 or email holiday@cuvahogaheights.com. We will need to know the name(s) and age(s) of your children/grandchildren. Deadline to register is Thursday, March 31, 2022.







From the Mayor's Desk (continued)

Volunteers

Village resident Cheryl Harris and her volunteers continue to make sleeping mats for the homeless. They meet twice a month at the Village Hall—the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m.-noon and the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If residents are interested in volunteering, or students that need community service hours, please contact Cheryl at 216-849-7075.

Also, if anyone has any blankets or afghans they no longer need, please again contact Cheryl as she is collecting these items for The City Mission.

Programs

We are pleased to announce that we again renewed our contract for 2022 with the Heritage Home Program. This program offers free technical assistance advice for home repair and maintenance projects on homes that are over 50 years old. In addition, the program also offers low-interest equity loans for home improvement projects. For additional information contact a Heritage Home staff member at 216-426-3116. You can also go on-line at www.heritagehomeprogram.org.

Website

We have various pictures of residents at events throughout the past year. Pictures are posted under the "photos" tab on our website at <u>www.cuyahogaheights.com</u>.

Birthdays

Our office continues to collect dates of our residents' birthdays. If you would like to share this information with us, please email it to <u>l.schoeffler@cuyahogaheights.com</u>.

February birthday wishes to employees: (5) Jason Sagan & Dave Palucki; (14) Ken LaBella; (16) Joe Cipriano; (23) Ahmed Gharib; (24) Todd Sciano and (26) Kayla Krukowski.

Before the start of the council meeting, Councilwoman Lois Henley presented Building Commissioner Norm Casini with a crown—fit for a king! Mr. Casini turned 89 on February 15.



HERITAGE HOME PROGRAM





From the Mayor's Desk (continued)

Special milestone birthday wishes to village residents: Ed Weber turned 70 on February 6; Mrs. Adeline Lipiec turned 97 on February 8; Councilman Rick Centa turned 70 on February 16; Jennifer Derbin-Ulery turns 50 on February 21 and Lee Ann Schoeffler turns 60 on February 28. Happy birthday and best wishes to all.

Get Well

Speedy recovery wishes to Noel Centa, Stanley Schab and Mary Schoeffler.

Condolences

Village resident, Sandy Waldemarson lost her sister Doris (Fontana) Bray on January 24, 2022; she was 89. Doris was born and grew up in our village; she was a CHHS alumni—Class of 1950. Please keep Sandy and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

~ John Quincy Adams





From the Chief Financial Officer

Finance Employee Spotlight Angel Meriwether, Chief Fiscal Officer

I am honored to be the first Chief Fiscal Officer for the Village of Cuyahoga Heights, and I am the third generation of my family to live here in the village. My mother Donna, moved into the village as a child in 1972 with her parents Mavis and Farrell, and siblings Kathie, Joanne and Glenn Snoddy. Before living in Cuyahoga Heights, they lived in Brooklyn Heights on Old Brookpark Road (by Richardson's off Schaaf Road)-they were forced to move when I-480 was being built. This led to my grandparents buying their first home on Marcelline Court. Forty-three years after my grandparents bought their first home here, my husband and I were excited to purchase our home in Cuyahoga Heights on Willowbrook Drive. My husband David and I couldn't be more thrilled to be raising our children Paige, Kendall, and Zander in our village. As an alumni of Cuyahoga Heights High School, David and I are both supportive of our community and schools.

After graduating from high school, I attended David N. Myers College and earned a Bachelor of Science-Business Administration-Accounting Specialization degree. In 2017 I earned a Certificate in Public Financial Management from Georgia State University. I worked in the private sector for ten years before starting my career with the village in 2010.



February Finance Update

R.I.T.A. Local Income and Net Profit Revenue

(Regional Income Tax Agency)

2019: \$12,020,418 2020: \$10,284,325

2021: \$11,625,531

The R.I.T.A. revenue in 2020 decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic as shown above, and the Mayor and I worked diligently to reduce necessary spending during that time. As you can see in the above numbers, the income tax revenue did increase from 2020 to 2021; however, we still have not seen a full recovery to pre-pandemic revenue numbers. Over the course of 2022, we expect to close the gap between 2019 and 2021. With reviews of current economic conditions, we anticipate a full recovery in 2023, baring no drastic changes to our village In January 2022, Council passed an industries. ordinance to reenact the five percent of all net revenues received to be allocated to our capital projects fund. This is to assist in maintaining our premier community status by updating and preserving items such as roadways, municipal buildings, parks, and recreational facilities in town.

Contact Information for the Finance Department Office: 216-641-7020 – Fax: 216-641-8485

Chief Fiscal Officer: Angel Meriwether ~a.meriwether@cuyahogaheights.com Amanda Domzalski ~a.domzalski@cuyahogaheights.com Christina Caporuscio ~c.caporuscio@cuyahogaheights.com

Questions about your individual *Income Tax* returns? Contact Regional Income Tax Agency (R.I.T.A) 1-800-860-7482 Questions about your *Property Tax*? Contact Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office 216-443-7010

From the Police Department

From the desk of Chief Sturgill

St. Patrick's Day is on the way and green beer will be flowing! If you're planning to partake of the festivities, be sure to plan for the safety of yourself and others first.

Here are some tips to ensure that you're not relying on luck to have a safe, fun St. Patrick's Day whether it's at home or out on the town.

1) Have a designated driver. It goes without saying: Don't ever drink and drive. Plan in advance for someone in your party to abstain from alcohol. Thank them by picking up their (non-alcoholic) tab and reimbursing them for their gas.

2) Have an alternate plan. If no designated driver is available, make other arrangements (before the evening starts, if possible) for a ride home. Options include calling a friend or family member or renting a room at a hotel within walking distance. Many Cleveland areas offer safe driving alternatives, RTA; UBER, LYFT, etc.

3) Drink water and eat food. Don't drink on an empty stomach and keep your belly full.

4) Don't leave your drink unattended. Also, never accept a drink that has been opened for you.

5) Keep an eye on your friends. Make sure your friends stay within their limits, and never let anyone drive drunk. If you have to, take their keys and help them find an alternate way home or to a hotel.

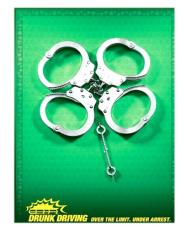
6) If you're the designated driver, drive carefully. Even though you haven't been drinking, others on the road may well have. Drive extra defensively and make sure everyone in your car remains buckled up. Keep a keen eye out for pedestrians, who may not have all their wits about them after a night of partying.

Have a Safe St. Patrick's Day!!!!!

Respectfully,

Chief Sturgill







From the Police Department (continued)

From the desk of Chief Sturgill

We all know that winter preparedness and safety are very important this time of year. While preparing for ourselves, we sometimes may forget to provide and prepare for our pets. To help prevent the dangers of cold weather from endangering your pet's health, please review the following:

Keep Pets Indoors if Possible

If it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pets. Don't keep your pets outdoors for long periods of time during very cold weather. Short-coated dogs may need a coat or sweater during walks.

Provide Outdoor Sheltering

If you have outdoor dogs, make sure they have a dry, draft-free doghouse that:

- Is large enough for pets to sit and lie down in, but small enough to retain their body heat.
- Has a floor that is elevated a few inches off the ground and is covered with cedar shavings or straw.
- Has an entrance that faces away from heavy winds and is covered with a flap of heavy waterproof fabric or heavy plastic.

Care for your Pet's Feet

Salt and other chemicals used to melt ice and snow can harm your pet's feet and can become dangerous if they are licked off of bare paws. Gently rub the bottom of your pet's paws with a damp towel to remove these irritants after a walk or buy dog boots to prevent paw irritation during winter weather. You should also look for signs that your pet's feet are uncomfortably cold, which could include them frequently lifting up their paws, whining, or stopping.

Provide Extra Food & Water

Pets that spend time outdoors in the winter use a lot of energy to stay warm. Provide a little extra food and regularly check your pet's water dish to ensure the water is fresh and not frozen. Use plastic food and water bowls instead of metal to prevent your pet's tongue from freezing to them.

Keep Pets on Leash

CHV Codified Ordinance #618.01 sets the "leash law" for pets in the village. It is especially important to keep pets on a leash when walking near frozen bodies of water (i.e., Bacci Park pond, Mill Creek Ohio Erie Canal, Cuyahoga River, etc.) so they don't run onto the ice. If a pet falls through the ice, do not go onto the ice to rescue them. If you can't reach your pet from shore, call 9-1-1 or go for help.



From the Police Department (continued)

Also, please be advised that the Ohio Revised Code does provide protection for our beloved pets or "companion animals." It also provides very stiff penalties (in some cases a felony) for those who do not provide properly or harm their pets.

Section 959.13 of the Ohio Revised Code states...

No person who confines or who is the custodian or caretaker of a companion animal shall negligently do any of the following:

- Torture, torment, or commit an act of cruelty against the companion animal;
- Deprive the companion animal of necessary sustenance or confine the companion animal without supplying it during the confinement with sufficient quantities of good, wholesome food and water if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the deprivation or confinement.
- Impound or confine the companion animal without affording it, during the impoundment or confinement, with access to shelter from heat, cold, wind, rain, snow, or excessive direct sunlight if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the lack of adequate shelter.

Please contact any of the following agencies immediately with any suspected cases of animal cruelty:



https://www.ohiospca.org/report-cruelty



Cleveland Animal Protective League Cruelty Hotline: 216-337-1630 <u>https://clevelandapl.org/report-animal-cruelty/</u>

Respectfully,

Ohio SPCA

(216) 883-6800

Chief Sturgill

Brian D. Sturgill Chief of Police



From the Building Department

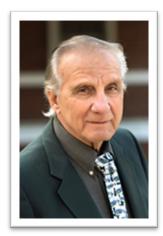
Building Employee Spotlight

Norman J. Casini (Norm), Building Commissioner/Village Architect

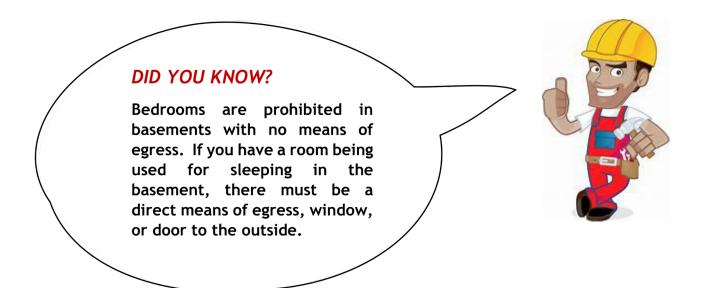
- Kent State University graduate
- Served in United States Army
- Certified Architect/Engineer
- State Certified Building Official, Master Plans Examiner and State Inspector

I have been the Building Commissioner and Architect from January 1, 1996, to the present. We have computerized our Building Department to expedite all applications for construction, as well as assist with aesthetic considerations for homeowners and commercial projects.

My wife Diane and I have four daughters, and I have enjoyed playing basketball, baseball and golf for many years.



Please note that all Building Department forms that currently are on our website at <u>www.cuyahogaheights.com</u> are going to be made fillable and should be updated by March 1, 2022. In addition, Rental Renewal, Out-of-County Owner and Vacant Home applications are due by April 1, 2022.



From the Fire Department

Fire Employee Spotlight Chief Michael Suhy

Michael Suhy is Fire Chief for Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department where he has been a firefighter/paramedic since 1996. Chief Suhy was Assistant Chief/Fire Inspector from 2012-2015, and served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 702.

Chief Suhy maintains active roles with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Northeast Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, Northeast Ohio Fire Prevention Association and Cuyahoga County Fire Chiefs Association. He is also the co-founder of the non-profit organization, Allison Rose Foundation, where he educates students, faculty, and staff on food allergies and anaphylaxis





To continue to ensure the safety of our village, the fire department recently hired full-time firefighter/paramedic Michael Cuthbertson. Michael comes with a range of experience, expertise, and eagerness to learn—and a passion for the job.





From the Village Hall

Health Watch Program

Cuyahoga Heights sponsors a Health Watch Program through the Fire Department for senior citizens who are 60 years of age or older. The program co-pays for an alarm that is worn around the neck of the resident to activate in case of an emergency.

Parks and Playgrounds

The village owns, operates, and maintains Bacci Park with a pond for fishing in the summer and ice-skating in the winter. Bacci Park also has its own playground, two ball fields, three pavilions, and a soccer field. **Please note that fishing in the pond at Bacci Park is for <u>residents only</u>, and by permit which can be obtained from the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department.*



2022 Village Scholarship Program

The scholarship program assists village resident graduates. Recipients will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship in the form of a tuition reimbursement. In order to be eligible for the award the recipients must meet several requirements: (1) be a resident of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights, (2) be a graduating high school senior in the spring or summer of 2022, (3) be enrolled either full-time or part-time at an accredited college, university, community college, vocational or technical school for the fall of 2022, (4) complete the fall 2022 school term with a grade point average sufficient to be in good standing with the academic institution, (5) must submit proof of grades to the CFO's office by March 1, 2023. Applications are available at the High School Guidance Office or at the village hall and must be submitted to the CFO at the village hall by May 1, 2022. Any questions please email cfo@cuyahogaheights.com.

Pest and Insect Control

Pest control services are available by calling Jeremy Kozlovich at Pest Management, Inc., at 216-661-3553. Please leave a message with your name, address, and nature of problem. This service is free except for termites, bed bugs, and wildlife. The village also sprays the outside of your home in the spring to hinder any unwanted pests from entering into your home.



From the Village Hall (continued)

Notary Service

Several of our employees at the village hall are Notaries for the State of Ohio, Cuyahoga County and would be happy to notarize items for village residents, free of charge during regular business hours.

Seven Hills Recreation Center

Trying to get healthy for the New Year...join the Seven Hills Recreation Center. The village has continued their agreement with Seven Hills for our village residents to use their facility. Our village will pay 100% of the rate for bona-fide village residents that are 62-years of age and older, U.S. Veterans, and disabled residents. We will also pay 50% of the rate for all other bona-fide village residents desiring to secure a membership as outlined in our price sheet. In order to purchase a membership, please contact the village hall during normal business hours. Each resident/family must show proof that he/she is a bona-fide resident of the Village of Cuvahoga Heights. At that time, you will also need to pay your 50% of the membership (cash or check only) for those not covered under the 100% rate. A copy of the approved application, along with rules and regulations will then be given to the resident. It is then up to the resident to take the approved application to the Seven Hills Recreation Center so that you can receive your official pass. We hope our residents will take advantage of this special offer, as well as keeping fit.

Transports

Just a friendly reminder that our transportation program continues to be one of the most utilized services our village provides. This service is available for our **senior citizens (60+)** who are otherwise unable to get to their doctor appointments. If any senior citizen has a doctor's visit and are in need of transportation, please contact the village hall during normal business hours one week prior to the scheduled doctor's visit







From the Service Department

Service Department Spotlight

David Sammons, Service Director

I was born and raised in Valley View and attended Cuyahoga Heights public schools from kindergarten through 12th grade.

After graduating high school, I enlisted in the U.S. Army. I did my basic training and schooling at Ft. Dix, NJ. My permanent duty station was at Ft. Benning, GA. While serving my 3-year enlistment, I served on my battalion's funeral detail, qualified "sharpshooter" with my weapon, was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for drownproofing a battalion of rangers, the Army Good Conduct Medal and was discharged with an honorable discharge.

In 1988 I took a job with North American Mfg. in Cuyahoga Heights. In my ten years there I spent two years in the refractory department, six years in the heavy assembly department and my last two years in the electrical assembly department.

In September of 1998, then Mayor Louis Bacci, offered me a position with the Village of Cuyahoga Heights' Service Department. I would spend the next 15 plus years as the head landscaper's assistant. My duties ranged from senior lawns, mulching, plowing and working on the garbage truck. In 2016 the position of Service Director became available; I applied and was appointed.

Outside of work I am married to Ronae Sammons, live in Brooklyn Heights and have two beautiful grandkids. My hobbies include golfing, laying on the couch and watching tv, and Coors Light.

Garbage Collection-Recycling-Yard Waste

The service department collects garbage every Monday morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. at no charge to its residents. Our service department will come into your yard and take your garbage tote and recycling container to the curb; afterwards they will carry it back into your yard. Please note that if a holiday falls on a Monday; the service will commence on Tuesday.

Special Pick Up

If you need a special pick up for trash that is oversized, large amounts, or hazardous waste, don't forget to call the village hall to be put on the special pick up list. Special pick up day is on Tuesday mornings, unless there is a holiday on Monday, at which time the special pick up will be taken care of on Wednesday. You must call the village hall by 4:00 p.m. on Monday to get on the list for Tuesday's pick up.





From the Service Department (continued)

Charity

Our service department will pick up any small usable item at your residence that you would like to donate to charity on the first Wednesday of each month. Small household items, clothes, etc., are collected and donated. No tax receipts are given for this service, and you must call the village hall prior to the first Wednesday of the month for this service.

Newspaper/Cardboard Recycling

Do your part in helping the environment; recycle cardboard and newspaper. Our village has a recycling container which is located in Bacci Park in the rear of the back parking lot. The container is strictly for cardboard and newspaper. Stop on down and do your part in recycling. If you have a large amount and are unable to take it to the container, please call the village hall during normal business hours prior to Tuesday mornings; we will put it on our "special pick up" list.

Dumpsters

Residents may rent a village dumpster for personal use at their home by paying \$30.00 to the village for each dumpster load. Use of the dumpster is for demolition only. Examples of demolition are lumber, railroad ties, windows, doors, roofing material, flooring (*not carpeting*), drywall or plaster, stones, rocks, bricks, concrete, cement blocks, etc.

Meals on Wheels

Prepared by Lori's Custom Catering

This service is available to any village resident that is 60 years of age or older. A lunch time meal will be delivered to your home daily, Monday through Friday by our service department. This is an affordable option, the cost is \$25.00 per week, which is only \$5.00 per day (must sign up for a full week). To receive meals for a given week payment must be made by the Thursday prior.

If you have any questions regarding this service, please contact Mindy Armbrust at the Service Department at 216-641-3505 or <u>m.armbrust@cuyahogaheights.com</u>





From the Service Department (continued)

Snow Removal Program * Residential Snow Removal Program

- All village roadways will be plowed first and maintained prior to any driveways being plowed.
- Once the Service Director feels that the roadways and municipal buildings have been maintained, the driveways of our **senior citizens** will be plowed (using the same criteria that applies to our grass cutting service).
- Afterwards, taking into consideration manpower, time and safety issues, the village will **help** residents with their driveways in the event of a storm that produces more than 2-4 inches of snow at the resident's request.
- All residents must have driveway markers in place in order to allow the service department to plow their driveway. The village will provide markers and place them for all seniors who qualify for the "grass cutting program." Residents with shorter driveways need 4 markers in place, and long driveways must have 6 markers. They need to be placed at the beginning, middle (if long drive), and at the end of your drive. If you wish to purchase markers from the village for \$1 each, please stop at the service department. Should you have any questions please contact Service Director Dave Sammons at 216-641-3505.
- Please note that residents are responsible for cleaning their driveway aprons, as it is difficult to plow them over again after the streets are plowed. Each homeowner and/or resident must have a waiver of liability on file at our service department. If you already have filled out a waiver of liability and there have been no changes to it, there will be no need to fill out a new one.

Sports and Recreation Department

Spring Soccer

Thank you to everyone who submitted registration forms for spring soccer. All forms have been passed along to our league commissioner. You can expect to hear from coaches regarding team placements and practice information in the coming weeks.

Sports Registrations

Summer youth baseball and softball registration is currently underway. Registration forms for these activities (as well as all youth and adult sports and activities) can be found on the village website by clicking the Recreation tab in the ribbon at the top of the home page. You will then find the registration forms in the drop-down menu under Sports tab. In addition to the registration form, a Recreation Public Health Waiver must be completed for all participants. Forms can be dropped off at village hall or emailed to <u>chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com</u>.

Forms received after the noted deadlines will incur a late registration fee of \$25.00, and while we do our best to place all children on teams, rosters do fill up quickly and late registrations can impact placement on a team.

<u>Sport</u> Youth Baseball & Softball Deadline March 15, 2022

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to send me an email at <u>chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com</u> or contact me at 216-641-3505.

Mindy Armbrust - Recreation Director

Concession Stand Cashiers • Park Monitors • Lifeguards • Pool Attendants • Playground Monitors Job Requirements for all the above:

- 1. All Park Monitors must be 16 years old by March 1, 2022.
- 2. Concession Stand Cashiers, Pool Attendant, Lifeguards and Playground Monitors must be 15 years old by June 1, 2022.
- 3. All Concession Stand Cashiers must possess proficient math skills, have an outgoing personality, and must be available to work weekends.
- 4. Applications <u>must</u> be turned in by 4:00 p.m. on <u>March 21, 2022</u> for *Concession Stand and Park Monitors* and by 4:00 p.m. on <u>April 4, 2022</u> for *the Pool*.
- 5. Applications <u>will not</u> be accepted after these dates.
- 6. Lifeguards must be a Certified Lifeguard, CPR Certified and WSI (Water Safety Instructor *if applicable*).

Applications and job descriptions are available online at <u>www.cuyahogaheights.com</u> under "Employment" or by email request to <u>hr@cuyahogaheights.com</u>. (All returning employees you may contact your manager for applications as well)

Park Monitors and Park Concession Stand Cashiers will start as soon as the weather permits!

The Swimming Pool tentatively opens on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration has begun at Cuyahoga Heights Elementary School. Registration continues until February 21, 2022. See website at cuyhts.org for more information.

Contact Christina to join our newsletter email list at <u>c.caporuscio@cuyahogaheights.com</u>

Don't forget to check out our web site at www.cuyahogaheights.com for updated pictures. Click on the "photo" tab on the top of the home page to find all photos from around town.